

Message Text

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43

ACTION OES-06

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DODE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 L-03 PA-02 USIA-15

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R 051100Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9261

INFO AMCONSUL MILAN

UNCLAS ROME 12673

DEPT FOR OES/SCI H. SPIELMAN

DEPT PASS DEPT AGRIC - SECRETARY BUTZ

FAS BELTSVILLE, MD - DR. KEARNEY

EPA/F.GREEN

NSF/H. UZNANSKI

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: SENV, IT, US

SUBJ: LETHAL GAS EXPLOSION IN LOMBARDY

REF: (A) ROME 12016 (B) ROME 12044 (C) STATE 1883388 (D)

STATE 185891 (E) MILAN 1690 (F) STATE 188499 (G) STATE

189652

1. THE STATUS OF ACTIVITY ON THE SUBJECT PROGRAM AS OF AUGUST

4, 1976 IS AS FOLLOWS:

2. DR. PHILIP KEARNEY, DEPT OF AGRICULTURE, ARRIVED IN ITALY AND

PARTICIPATED IN MEETINGS IN ROME, MILAN AND SWITZERLAND.

HIS COLLABORATORS HAVE BEEN, FOR ITALY, PROF. FRANCESCO POCCHIARI,

DIRECTOR, ISTITUTO SUPERIORE DI SANITA (NATIONAL INSTITUTE

OF HEALTH) AND SCIENCE DIRECTOR OF THE ACTIVITY TO LIMIT THE

DAMAGE TO HUMANS AND ENVIRONMENT FROM THE EXPLOSION; FOR THE U.S.,

THE COLLABORATORS HAVE BEEN MR. ROBERT P. GOOLD, POL/MIL, MR.

ELMER W. HALLOWELL, AGRIC. ATTACHE AND MR. JOHN B.L. MANNIELLO,

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SCI COUNSELOR, ALL OF AMEMB ROME, AND MR. LACY A. WRIGHT,

CONSUL, AMCONS MILAN.

3. MR. KEARNEY DEPARTED ITALY THE MORNING OF AUGUST 4, 1976.

4. A 10-POINT PROGRAM FOR DECONTAMINATION AND OTHER RELATED ACTIONS WAS PREPARED BY DR. KEARNEY AND APPROVED BY PROF. POCCHIARI AND THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND HIS STAFF. THE PROGRAM WILL NOW BE SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL TO A SCIENTIFIC COMMISSION BEING FORMED BY THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH.

5. THE AREA HAS BEEN CORDONED OFF - BUT IS NOT YET SECURE. THE INHABITANTS HAVE BEEN EVACUATED.

6. NO DEATHS ARE ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE EXPLOSION AND/OR ITS AFTER-EFFECTS; BUT AN ELDERLY MAN AND A 5-YEAR OLD CHILD ARE SERIOUSLY ILL AS A RESULT OF DIRECT CONTACT WITH THE CHEMICAL.

7. THE ITALIAN PRESS HAS REPORTED THAT A NORTH VIETNAM DOCTOR, ALLEGEDLY A SPECIALIST IN "DECONTAMINATION OF THE TYPE OF DEFOLIANT PRODUCED AT THE PLANT." WILL VISIT ITALY IN OCTOBER OF HIS YEAR TO ASSIST IN THE DECONTAMINATION EFFORTS. HOWEVER, IT HAS BEEN SHOWN BY THE ITALIAN SCIENTIFIC TEAM AND DR. KEARNEY THAT A DEFOLIANT WAS NOT PRODUCED AT THE PLANT AND THAT THE PRODUCT INVOLVED IS IN NO WAY USED TO PRODUCE A DEFOLIANT. THE PRODUCT PRODUCED AT THE PLANT WAS, IN FACT, THE BASIC BLOCK FOR THE PRODUCTION OF HEXACHLOROPHINE, THE ANTISEPTIC USED IN SOAP MANUFACTURING.

8. AMBASSADOR PLANS DISCUSS INVITATION TO VIETNAMESE DOCTOR TODAY WITH FONMIN FORLANI AND TO POINT OUT HE CAN NOT CONTRIBUTE SIGNIFICANTLY TO THE WORK THAT HAS ALREADY BEEN DONE BY ITALIAN AND WESTERN SCIENTISTS AND THAT HIS PRESENCE WILL BE EXPLOITED BY THE LEFTIST PRESS TO THE DETRIMENT OF WESTERN INTERESTS. VOLPE

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